

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 22-0610
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APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **KATHLEEN ROMANO**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
CLOTHES DRYING APPARATUS of which the following is a
specification:

CLOTHES DRYING APPARATUS

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to clothes drying racks and more particularly pertains to a new clothes drying apparatus for allowing articles that need to be dried flat to air dry.

15 Description of the Prior Art

The use of clothes drying racks is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 5,458,249 describes a device for supporting clothing to allow the clothing to air dry. Another type of clothes drying rack is U.S. Patent No. 4,895,261 having a plurality of hoops for receiving clothing that is to be suspended from the hoops to allow the clothing to dry. U.S. Patent No. 5,819,961 has a portable valet for supporting a garment. U.S. Patent No. Des. 261,350 shows a clothes dryer rack.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device that has certain improved features allowing for clothing articles to be dried flat.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by providing a support member of each of the support frame assemblies to receive clothing allowing for the clothing to be flat 5 dried.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new clothes drying apparatus that can be easily stored when not in use.

10 Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new clothes drying apparatus that can accommodate items of clothing that can be hung to dry.

15 To this end, the present invention generally comprises a support assembly being designed for being selectively positioned on a support surface. A plurality of support frame assemblies are pivotally coupled to the support assembly whereby each of the support frame assemblies selectively radiates from the support 20 assembly. Each of the support frame assemblies is designed for receiving and supporting at least one article of clothing to allow the clothing to air dry.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more 25 important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter 30 of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is 10 given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a side view of a new clothes drying apparatus according to the present invention.

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Figure 2 is a top view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a side view of the present invention shown in storage.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 3 thereof, a new clothes drying apparatus 25 embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 3, the clothes drying apparatus 10 generally comprises a support assembly 11 being 30 designed for being selectively positioned on a support surface.

A plurality of support frame assemblies 12 are pivotally coupled to the support assembly 11 whereby each of the support

frame assemblies 12 selectively radiates from the support assembly 11. Each of the support frame assemblies 12 is designed for receiving and supporting at least one article of clothing to allow the clothing to air dry.

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The support assembly 11 comprises a stanchion member 13. The stanchion member 13 is designed for being positioned on the support surface. Each of the support frame assemblies 12 is pivotally coupled to the stanchion member 13 whereby each of the support frame assemblies 12 is designed for supporting the clothing when the support frame assemblies 12 are pivoted to radially extend from the stanchion member 13.

The support assembly 11 comprises a plurality of base members 14. Each of the base members 14 is pivotally coupled to the stanchion member 13. Each of the base members 14 is designed for being positioned between the stanchion member 13 and the support surface whereby the base members 14 are for stabilizing the stanchion member 13 on the support surface when the support frame assemblies 12 are being used. Each of the base members 14 pivot between a deployed position and a stored position. The stored position of each of the base members 14 is defined by each of the base members 14 being positioned substantially parallel to the stanchion member 13. The deployed position of each of the base members 14 is defined by each of the base members 14 extending at an angle between the stanchion member 13 and the support surface to provide maximum stability for the stanchion member 13.

The support assembly 11 comprises a hook member 15. The hook member 15 is coupled to the stanchion member 13 whereby the

hook member 15 is designed for being positioned opposite the support surface when the stanchion member 13 is positioned on the support surface. The hook member 15 is designed for engaging a closet rod to facilitate storage of the support assembly 11 and the support frame assemblies 12 when the support assembly 11 and the support frame assemblies 12 are not in use.

5 Each of the support frame assemblies 12 comprises pair of frame members 16. Each of the frame members 16 is pivotally coupled to the support assembly 11 whereby each of the frame members 16 is pivotal between a collapsed position and an extended position. The collapsed position of each of the frame members 16 is defined by the associated one of the frame members 16 being positioned substantially parallel to the support assembly 11. The 15 extended position of each of the frame members 16 is defined by the associated one of the frame members 16 radially extending from the support assembly 11. The frame members 16 of each of the support frame assemblies 12 is designed for supporting the weight of the clothing on the associated one of the support frame 20 assemblies 12.

Each of the support frame assemblies 12 comprises a support member 17. The support member 17 is coupled to the frame members 16 of the associated one of the support frame assemblies 25 12 whereby the support member 17 extends between the frame members 16. The support member 17 is stretched between the frame members 16 of the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12 whereby the support member 17 is designed for supporting clothing in a horizontal state to dry when the frame 30 members 16 are in the extended position. The support member 17

comprises a mesh material. The mesh material is designed for permitting air to pass through the mesh material whereby the mesh material is for permitting air to contact the clothing supported by the support member 17 to facilitate air drying of the clothing.

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Each of the support frame assemblies 12 comprises at least one line member 18. The line member 18 is coupled to at least one of the frame members 16 of the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12. The line member 18 is designed for receiving the 10 clothing to allow the clothing to be suspended from the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12 to allow the clothing to dry.

At least one of the support frame assemblies 12 comprises a plurality of clip members 19. Each of the clip members 19 is 15 coupled to the line member 18 of the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12. Each of the clip members 19 selectively engaging the clothing to facilitate suspending the clothing from the line member 18.

20 Each of the support frame assemblies 12 comprises at least one band member 20. The band member 20 is coupled to the frame members 16 of the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12 whereby the band member 20 extends between the frame members 16. The band member 20 is designed for selectively 25 securing the clothing to the support member 17 of the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12 to inhibit the clothing from blowing away.

30 Alternately, each of the support frame assemblies 12 comprises at least one securing member 21. The securing member

21 is selectively coupled to the support member 17 of the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12. The securing member 21 is designed for selectively securing the clothing to the support member 17 of the associated one of the support frame 5 assemblies 12 to inhibit the clothing from blowing away.

In use, the user removes the hook member 15 from the closet rod and positions the support assembly 11 in a desired location. The base members 14 are then pivoted into the deployed position 10 and the base members 14 positioned on the support surface. The user then pivots the frame members 16 of each of the support frame assemblies 12 to the extended position. The user can then place clothing on the support member 17 of each of the support frame assemblies 12 to allow the clothing to dry flat. The user may also 15 hang clothing over the line member 18 of each of the support frame assemblies 12 or use the clip members 19 to secure the clothing to the line member 18 to allow the clothing to dry suspended from the associated one of the support frame assemblies 12.

20 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all 25 equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of 30 the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the

art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.